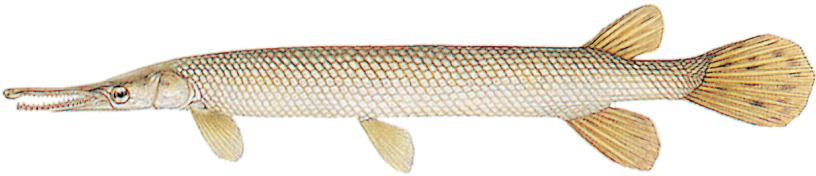


## **GAR (family Lepisosteidae)**

### **Shortnose gar**

*Lepisosteus platostomus*



**Similar Species:** None in South Dakota

**Identification:** Snout elongated with sharp teeth, olive green above to whitish below, dorsal fin far back on body, diamond-shaped scales.

Shortnose gar occur in the Missouri River and its tributaries in eastern South Dakota and are the most common gar in the state. Adult gar primarily eat other fish; however, insect larvae and crayfish also are taken. Shortnose gar are found most often in quiet pools and backwaters. They spawn in shallow water over vegetation when water temperature is around 70 F. The bony mouths of gar make hooking with conventional tackle difficult; thus, shortnose gar provide a considerable challenge to anglers.

